

## Town of Arlington Office of the Town Manager

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To the Arlington Community,

Tomorrow, June 15, 2021, Arlington Town Hall Administrative Offices will open their physical doors to the public consistent with Governor Baker's ending of the State of Emergency. I wanted to take a brief moment to express my gratitude to Town staff, residents, and businesses as well as give you a glimpse on how we are moving forward.

Over the past 15 months, and especially in those early weeks of uncertainty, I've witnessed tremendous dedication by Town staff to adapt to challenging situations and deliver essential services to the public. Many Town staff have been working in our offices, safely, throughout the pandemic, while others were able to work remotely to keep others safe. I'm pleased to say the Town did not experience a single incident of COVID-19 spread in its offices.

Residents have shown themselves to be flexible as well. Conducting business with the Town online is just one example. Residents have also show compassion and generosity in helping their neighbors and their community by adhering to safety protocols, making donations, and supporting local businesses.

Arlington Businesses have been especially creative to survive during the pandemic, but sadly, not all did. There is a bumpy road in front of many and they will certainly need our continued support in the months ahead. Our work with the Economic Development Recovery Task Force continues to assist them.

I also want to acknowledge the 87 individuals from Arlington who we lost due to the virus. The loss is significant to their families as well as the community. The Council on Aging is working on a fitting tribute in the near future. As we move forward, please keep those that we lost and their families in your thoughts.

Although the state of emergency comes to a close and vaccination rates continue to rise there is still more to do. We will continue to monitor and report new COVID-19 cases, as well as vaccination rates online at arlingtonma.gov/covid19. We will also monitor ongoing guidance with respect to COVID-19 variants and vaccine effectiveness and report updates as the need arises. We will now cease our weekly COVID-19 Updates. If new information arises, we will be sure to notify you via our usual methods (Town Notices and social media), so be sure to subscribe at arlingtonma.gov/connect.

In closing, this past year has made me feel ever grateful to be serving as Arlington's Town Manager. Throughout the past fifteen months, I have been buoyed by your thoughtfulness, resiliency, and compassion as a community and I look forward to Arlington's success as we all adjust to our new normal.

Be well and stay safe,

Adam W. Chapdelaine